

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 04842 281700Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02
SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07
TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 /146 W
-----014058 281720Z /43

O R 281618Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4571
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04842

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN
SUBJECT: TUNGSTEN -- APRIL 4 MEETING OF THE TRADE AND
DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB)

REF: STATE 79031

1. SUBSTANCE REFTEL DISCUSSED WITH DEREK THOMAS,
DEPT OF INDUSTRY, IN ABSENCE OF MICHAEL JOHNSON, WHO IS
ON HOLIDAY THIS WEEK. WE ARE ALSO PASSING A MEMO TO
THOMAS.
2. THOMAS REAFFIRMED THAT UK POSITION IS CLOSE TO US
POSITION OUTLINED IN REFTEL; HOWEVER, HE NOTED UK MIGHT
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TAKE A FIRM STAND AGAINST PARTICI-
PATION IN A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE IF IT CAME TO THAT.
3. THOMAS NOTED THAT IN AN EC COORDINATING MEETING IN
BRUSSELS ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO THE FRG AND UK WERE THE ONLY
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PAGE 02 LONDON 04842 281700Z

ONES FROM THE COMMUNITY NOT WILLING TO TAKE A SOFT LINE
ON NEGOTIATION. OTHER EC COUNTRIES, HE SAID, ARQUED
FOR A JOINT POSITION SHOWING WILLINGNESS TO GO TO
NEGOTIATION ALTHOUGH NO ONE SEEMED TO HAVE A CLEAR IDEA
ABOUT WHAT TO NEGOTIATE OR WHERE A NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE
ON TUNGSTEN SHOULD COME OUT.

4. CONSENSUS OF BRUSSELS MEETING ALSO WAS THAT A SHOW-DOWN SHOULD BE AVOIDED IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. THEREFORE IF ISSUE IN TDB SEEMED HEADED FOR A VOTE, THE EEC WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE ON COMPROMISE ALONG LINES OF PARA 7 OF REFTEL WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE COMMUNITY'S PROPOSAL WOULD PROBABLY BE VAGUE AND NOT REPEAT NOT RULE OUT FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN/BOLIVIAN PROPOSAL AS WE WOULD DESIRE. THOMAS NOTED THAT THE UK WENT ALONG WITH THIS SUGGESTION WITH NO ENTHUSIASM. THE UK CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER FORUM PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE FIVE CONSUMERS AND SEES THE EEC'S SUGGESTED FALLBACK COMPROMISE AS A DEVICE WHICH AT BEST WOULD ONLY DEFER CONFRONTATION UNTIL NEXT FALL.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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